

MUSIC AWARDED ROCKERS WORK TO SUPPORT THEIR MELODY **P.3**

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FOOD ALL AROUND A NATION THAT'S NUTS ABOUT NOODLES **P.8**

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THE ANIMAL SOUL

LED BY A YEARNING FOR FANTASY, LIU LIAN SPENT YEARS ABROAD BEFORE HE CAME TO APPRECIATE THE MYSTERY AND CHARM OF HIS OWN CULTURE **P.4**



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ENTERTAINMENT



Autumn Wind Caught Recycling the Old 'Love in New York' Plot

BY YANG XIN

March is dark time for Chinese cinema. Since saying goodbye to the boom weeks of Valentine's Day and Spring Festival, the only film to come limping into the box office has been *An Autumn Wind*.

While on the surface *An Autumn Wind* appears to have a grand background, its story crumbles the minute a

viewer realizes it is pure cheese.

Supported by his dedicated wife, the "diaosi" Lan Yi eventually becomes a "tuhao" in Beijing. That's when he meets his childhood sweetheart Jasmine on the streets of New York City. But Jasmine has found another down-and-out artist to love.

Dramatically, Jasmine accepts Lan's

money and uses it to support her artist boyfriend. The story ends with Lan in a car accident and Jasmine raining tears.

The plot is incredibly similar to last September's *But Always*, where the childhood sweethearts end up in New York alone for the same reason: to pursue their so-called dreams while getting trapped in a triangle.

The one good line in *An Autumn Wind* came from Jasmine's artist boyfriend: "You never know how to love someone because you never lost them."

It seems like the director planned to tell a complete story involving the comparison between the Chinese and American economy during the 2008 World Financial Crisis and a typical arty girl's vision of love. Unfortunately, the weak plot fell back on killing off the main character and leaving a dozen holes.

After years of being the 'flowerpot' on the big screen, Lin Chi-ling finally had chance to embrace her 'golden period' as an actress – but it seems no one considered her voice or image. Everything about her clashed horribly with her role as a student on the bottom runs of metropolitan society.

As for Liu Ye, well, we expected more. The former Hong Kong Film Awards-winner seems to have forgotten how to choose a good script. His journey from *Spaced Out* to *The Boundary* has been one long self-depreciating tumble. His stilted romance lines and abrupt roaring might leave new viewers wondering how he ever became famous.

But for all that went wrong in *An Autumn Wind*, there is something worth the price of admission: the cinematography.

Du Kefeng, chief cinematographer of the internationally renowned auteur Wong Kar-wai, presents a gorgeous picture. Using the latest in aerial photography technology, Du captures landmarks of New York City such as the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty and dim streetlights.

An Autumn Wind is much more enjoyable when you pretend it's a 100-minute music video. ■

Detective Novel Series Enters the World of Counterfeits

BY DIAO DIAO



Photos by douban.com & baike.baidu.com

Chinese antiques may enjoy worldwide fame, but Chinese fakes are deserving of infamy. In *Gudong Juzhongju*, the third entry in his popular Antique Traps series, detective and sci-fi writer Ma Boyong takes readers on a journey through the world of counterfeits.

Formerly a seat-warmer at a foreign company, Ma made a career for himself with a series essays and short mystery stories he began sharing online in the early 2000s. Many of his pieces were republished in print media, where his humor and strict tone made for an amusing linguistic balance.

His first novel, *Wind Starts From Longxi*, was published in 2005 and set in the Three Kingdoms Era. He followed it up with *Fengyu Luoshenfu* and *The Secret of Sanguo*. The three were considered some of China's best historical deductive novels.

In 2012, Ma started working on something new. He designed a story based on identification and collection of antiques. His book includes fake antiques and traps

hidden in paintings, bronze items, gold stones and pottery.

Behind every fake antique is a bizarre series of calculated traps and strange events.

Fake antiques have a long history in China. As early as the Eastern Jin Dynasty, Kang Xin forged the work of famous calligrapher Wang Xizhi. Emperor Huizong of the Song Dynasty liked faking all kinds of bronze items and putting them in his palace.

Worthless items can become priceless once they are delicately painted and passed on from one generation to another. The mysterious and dangerous market is full of such examples.

Ma's antique series follows a 33-year-old antique shop owner named Xu Yuan who runs a family shop in Liulichang. He knows all kinds of antiques and can spot a fake with one glance. But one day a strange customer disturbs his life by introducing him to the world of tricky historical fakes.

The second and third books focus on



famous Song Dynasty paintings and the funerary goods of the Empress Dowager Ci Xi.

Critics said the third book is less interesting than its predecessors since the ending is already well established by history. The book also features weaker detective work and fewer ups and downs.

In spite of those shortcomings, Ma's story remains tight and moves quite quickly. ■

MUSIC



The Twenties Working to Feed their Melodies

BY DIAO DIAO

“I will never forget seeing my dad’s saxophone concert at the biggest theater in our hometown when I was 12 years old,” says Zhao Danyang, founder and singer of The Twenties. “I was shocked by how the audience loved his performance. I never knew he could be so handsome on stage.”

The concert forever changed Zhao’s life.

Although Zhang grew up in a musical household, she was often frustrated by her dad’s flute and saxophone practice and the space his music books occupied on her shelf. But after discovering the power of performance, Zhao found her own love for music.

Today, Zhao has her own band. But unlike her father’s it is a labor of love. She has already had to give up a job teaching disadvantaged children for a less rewarding but much more lucrative English teaching job at a private school.

“The band needed more money than I could earn,” she said.

Wang Yiliang, the band’s lead guitarist, lends his support through a job at an independent jewelry brand. The financial realities of Beijing’s indie scene have meant putting his professional music career on hold.

Like many young Chinese men, Wang’s introduction to the world of music came via bootlegged heavy metal tapes. “I was shocked by the noisy guitars and dirty words on my friend’s tape. I wondered how something so coarse could even be recorded and published,” Wang said.

After spending the whole vacation listening to the tape, Wang was hooked and asked his friend for more metal.

It didn’t take long for him to work up the courage to buy a battered old guitar and track down a teacher. “I started listening and practicing more. The better I played, the worse my school marks became,” he said.

His first trip to the Midi Music Festival convinced him that a band was his future. Held on the playground of the Midi Music



Photos by The Twenties



School near the Fragrant Hills Park, the event swallowed up the aspiring guitarist into a world of screaming and dancing. “As a middle school student, I just felt the passion and nothing has been able to compare with that live show ever since,” he said.

A few years later, Wang met Yu Shiwei in high school and the two teamed up to start a punk band. They ended up in the The Twen-

ties when Zhao began recruiting.

With money tight and time limited, the members are keenly aware that the fate of their music rests on their day jobs.

“Our songs are simple and easy, and just like most bands we base our lyrics on ordinary stories. But it’s in fitting the lyrics and melody together that we get really pick,” Zhao said.

Their most popular songs to date have been “Paranoid,” “Underground” and “Giant Star.” The members’ current favorite is “Burn the Bridges,” though that song has yet to be tested on stage.

Wang compares staying in the band to staying in a relationship: given all the problems that come in two-person relationships, it takes a lot of tolerance to make a four-man team work.

The Twenties was named Best New Band by The Sound Stage of CRI after their performance at Yugong Yishan. “The venue was brilliant and it was the first time we were recognized and invited to such a crowded show. That encouraged us a lot,” Wang said.

The group is working to record more songs for their debut album and continuing their local shows on the city’s live house circuit. ■

☞ site.douban.com/thetwenties

LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world’s most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week’s live performances!

Shing02 @ Yugong Yishan

Born in Tokyo and raised in Tanzania and England, Shing02 came up in the independent San Francisco Bay Area scene in the early 1990s. Over the course of his independent career, the bilingual MC has remained true to his hip hop roots that blend creativity and activism with music and multimedia.

☉ March 28, 9-11:30 pm

📍 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

💎 100 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)

Mongolian Bands @ Mako Live

Oksa and Battle Flag are holding a night of Mongolian music at Mako Live. Oksa is a Mongolian rock band founded by three older Mongolian musicians in 2014. In Mongolian, its name means origin and inheritance.

Battle Flag was formed in Inner Mongolia by a group of musicians from Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang. The band plays a mix of ethnic music and metal that bridges the spacious grasslands and the confined city.

☉ March 28, 9-11:30 pm

📍 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang

💎 50 yuan (pre sale), 60 yuan (at door)

Xu Zhepei @ Tango

Xu Zhepei, also called Peggy Hsu, is a singer, producer and DJ who found fame with her first album Balloon. The album also won many musical awards in 2007. She sees people and the world and turns what she sees into her music.

☉ March 29, 8-10 pm

📍 79 Hepingli Xi Jie, Dongcheng

💎 150 yuan (pre sale), 200 yuan (at door)



Hodgehog @ MAO Livehouse

Hodgehog is one of the first bands that capture the characteristics of China’s young generation. The band has six albums and each of marks a specific time in their growth. Hodgehog’s music reminds listeners of their lost dreams and the happiness and pain of growth.

☉ March 28, 8-11:30 pm

📍 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

💎 150 yuan



ARTISTS

Returning to the Heart of Oriental Art

BY LYNNE WANG

It can be hard for people to appreciate their own culture before they've had the chance to leave it behind. Faced with an unfamiliar environment and a yearning for fantasy, artist Liu Lian spent several years traveling abroad until he came to appreciate the mystery and charm of his own oriental culture.

The 40-year-old artist hides behind the face of an awkward and chubby bunny and invites viewers into a detached state where they can laugh at life.

"I lived in Chicago for three years and was intoxicated by the city's multicultural conflicts and free artistic atmosphere. But after a while, I realized how deeply my soul was rooted in China," Liu says. "Chinese traditional culture is what I cherish and what I want to express through my art."

Born in Guangyuan, Sichuan province in 1975, Liu's passion for oriental culture comes from a childhood spent buried in books.

"My mom ran a small bookstore where I spent many happy days. I loved reading, especially anything related to culture and history. I was always fascinated by the beauty of Tang poetry and Song Dynasty scholar paintings," Liu says.

Those memories have surfaced in his latest work.

Indeed, many of Liu's finished pieces bear the names of ancient works, such as *Jiang Jun Ling*, *Ge Shu Ye Dai Dao* and *Kong Jing Tian Shang Ren*.

But unlike his China-obsessed peers, Liu's subjects are anthropomorphized animals with brooding human expressions and social airs that capture his thoughts.

In *Birds*, Liu paints a series of finches with gorgeous feathers and delicate eye lines. Their man-like expressions act as a mirror that allows viewers to understand Liu's attitude to human society as well as their own. The reflection of human nature can also be found in *Non-Dual*. Both the duck with cool eyes in *Better World* and the ignorant cat in *Zero Gravity* act as mirrors of human emotion.

"I have a deep attachment to animals. I used to keep two cats and one dog. But it's hard to say my paintings are actually animals. I tend to regard them as human beings, or as pure feeling and emotion," Liu says.

"I painted personality and soul. The 'animals' are actually just the medium."

Like many artists who started to paint at an early age, Liu's art journey was somehow lucky and smooth. After graduating from a middle school affiliated with the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Liu was accepted to Beijing's top art school.

But Liu has been trying to find a way off the rails of the Chinese art system for nearly two decades.

Liu studied woodblock early in his art career but soon transitioned into oil painting, neo ink-painting and experimental art.

"Creation should never be limited and this is why I've always been trying new things. The fixed model is the grave of art," Liu says. "In the past, I was keen on thinking about 'concepts' and painting abstract works. But now I just want to express my obsession with oriental painting in the most appropriate language."

In terms of Liu's embrace of traditional culture, the art community tends to describe him as a neo-classicist. But Liu says he hopes to follow his heart instead of the latest genre label or trend.

"If my creation is a process of coding, then viewing is an attempt of decoding in the context of the viewer's background and experience. There is no right or wrong idea to have about my work," Liu says.

To be an artist is a fortunate thing, Liu says: even if conventional wisdom dictates otherwise. The artist speaks to express himself and converse with the world.

"The most important thing is to keep a pure heart. Making a living with your art can be risky, but you will find life offers a broad path to anyone who takes the time to find himself," he says. ■



Genesis



Birds No.1



Born to Die No.3

Photos by Liu Lian



Ge Shu Ye Dai Dao



Kong Jing Tian Shang Ren

artand.com/liulian

A TRAVEL



CFP Photo



The Scenic Beauty of Hebei's Fortified Secret

BY LI RUIQI

Yuxian, once known as Yuzhou, is one of 16 strategic military sites in the Taihang Mountains where Song Dynasty rulers secured the Chinese empire against northern invaders. With more than 800 fortified structures dating back to ancient times, the village is considered to be a military miracle on par with the Great Wall.

Today, many of the fortresses have been converted into towns and villages.

In spite of its awkward name and forgotten location, the villages of Yuxian have become popular with historically minded travelers and TV and film directors. Feng Xiaogang's popular comedy *The Dream Factory* and *Devils on the Doorstep* by Jiang Wen were shot in some of the villages.



From Fortress to Village

Yuxian's rammed earth walls were built for military use, meaning they were allowed to be as high and thick as those of the capital city.

Soldiers serving in the labor force built Yuxian's walls in the traditional method, creating a frame of wood between two posts and slowly raising the support boards as the dirt became more firmly packed. The construction process left a deep moat surrounding the town and the troops diverted water from nearby rivers to keep their enemies away.

Even in ancient times the fortress was home to a small community. Fort Xigu, for example, included ancient theatres, temples and homes within its walls. The main street stretching from north to south and the network of roads resemble a series of fish bones.

The fortress continues to serve as a residential community. Many people work in the small shops or on the streets. During Spring Festival, the residents are famous for splashing molten iron in what they call dashuhua, a dangerous performance that looks like a fireworks display.

Tips:

- Nuanquan Ancient Town is the best-preserved fortress in Yuxian. It takes one day to visit the town and admission costs 60 yuan per person. Student discounts are available.
- Try the geluo and shredded tofu in Yuxian. They cost about 5 yuan per plate at the bazaar and are cheap and tasty.
- Bring cash. You may not be able to find a working ATM in the village.
- There is no bus between Zhangjiakou and Yuxian. You had better save your taxi driver's phone number if you want someone to pick you up after your trip.

Feihu Valley and the Sky Prairie

The Feihu Valley cuts through the Taihang, Yan and Heng mountain ranges. It was an important passage to Shanxi province and Inner Mongolia in ancient times.

It was the site of famous battles between General Huo Qubing and the Xiongnu in 119 BC, as well as where Liu Bang once defeated Xiang Yu before founding the Han Dynasty.

Aside from historical stories, Feihu

Valley is also known for its amazing landscapes.

The valley can suddenly shrink from hundreds of meters wide to a 3-meter-wide crack at its narrowest. There's a staggeringly high stone pillar jutting out of seemingly nothing to connect the valley and the sky. Valley roads are flanked by hills of wild flowers and streams that look

golden in the sunset.

Feihu Valley eventually leads to a prairie in the middle of the Taihang range. With an altitude of 2,158 meters, the vast prairie has become known as the "Grasslands in the Sky."

Edelweiss covers the plateau during the summer. It's a beautiful destination for camping, barbecues or stargazing during the early summer months.

Tips:

- Wear comfortable shoes and pack light. A coat is absolutely necessary because the valley can get very cold at night.
- Tickets to Feihu Valley cost 80 yuan per person. Barbecue and camping on the grasslands cost another 100 yuan.
- Don't expect to buy supplies in the valley. Bring your own food and water.

Transportation

- Follow the Jingzang Highway to the Xianguang Line, then turn off to reach Yuxian. The drive takes about 4 hours if you start from downtown Beijing.
- Take train T117 and get off at Xuanhua or Train T315 to Zhangjiakou Nan. You will have to rent a taxi and drive another hour to reach Yuxian.



Photo by mafengwo.com

Catchphrases

BY DIAO DIAO

A lot of China's modern Internet vernacular is inspired by popular TV series and media. We've rounded up a few of the most popular catchphrases coined in 2014 that remain in use this year.



Chén Qiè Zuò Bú Dào

Chén Qiè zuò bú dào (臣妾做不到) is a catchphrase from the popular TV series *Empresses in the Palace*. In one scene, the emperor becomes furious at the empress and asks why she doesn't resent him. She replies, "Chén Qiè zuò bú dào!" which means "I'm not able to!"

The actress' exaggerated facial expression was snapped and circulated online. It has since become a popular meme trotted out whenever people have to give something up or are unwilling to compromise.

Qiě Xíng Qiě Zhēn Xī

Qiě xíng qiě zhēn xī (且行且珍惜) is a catchphrase inspired by the "scandalous" spring-and-autumn marriage between actor Wen Zhang and actress Ma Yili. The man's decade of extra years upset a lot of celebrity followers who frowned on their love.

In March, images posted to Sina Weibo showed Wen Zhang kissing another actress Yao Di. Ma was unusually calm and tolerant of her husband's extramarital affair. "It's easy to love but it's hard to get married," she wrote. The scandal last for the rest of the year and Ma's calm reply of "Qiě xíng qiě zhēn xī" became a popular phrase to express helplessness and compromise.

It often gets paired with something else for a sarcastic effect, such as "It's easy to eat but it's hard to lose weight, qiě chí qiě zhēn xī."



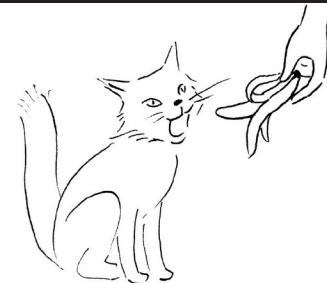
Jí Hǎo Dē

This phrase also comes from *Empresses in the Palace*. In the TV series, the main character Zhen Huan always says jí hǎo dē (极好的) to show her appreciation for something. Normally people would say the more common bú cuò (不错), but the show attempts to employ classical written Chinese in common speech.

The awkward sound of the phrase and its frequent use made it popular online. Jí means extremely while hǎo means good. ■



WEEKLY TANGO



TANGO

Tango studies at Tsinghua University's Academy of Art and Design. For more comics, follow his Sina Weibo feed at [@tangocartoon](#).

Ask Beijing Today

"Ask Beijing Today" is our weekly column that attempts to make life in China less confusing. You can email your own questions to ask@beijingtoday.com.cn.

Q. How does the city's bike rental system operate?

A. As a foreigner, you must show your residence permit, municipal transportation

card with a balance of no less than 30 yuan (with the mark of "C") and a deposit of 200 yuan. Bicycles are free for the first hour and cost 1 yuan per hour after. The maximum cost of rental is 10 yuan. Bicycles must be returned within three days to avoid being blacklisted from future rentals.

Q. I've seen people in gym locker rooms with cupping marks on various parts of their bodies. What is the

health benefit of doing this? And is it true that acupuncture can help people lose weight?

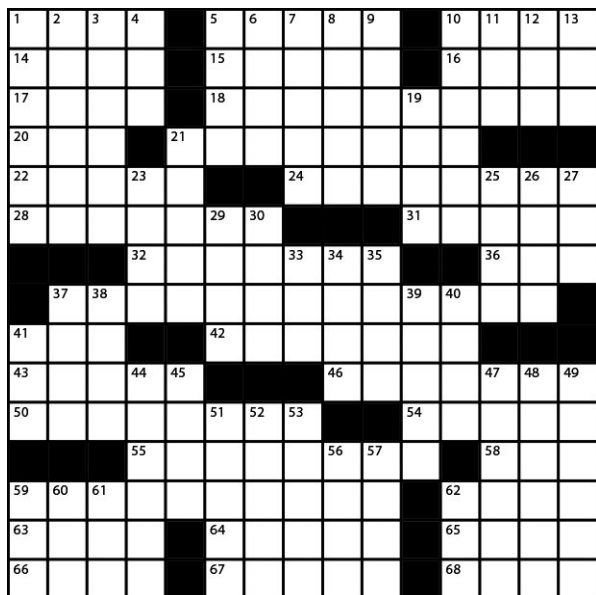
A. According to Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) theory, cupping helps to rid the body of heat or cold. One *Beijing Today* staff member recommends acupuncture for weight loss. She said some people need a combination of acupuncture, diet and exercise to see results while others can lose weight through acupuncture alone.

Let us know what works for you!

Q. Where can I go for a breast cancer screening? Is there a hospital here that caters to women?

A. You can go to any major local hospital such as Xiehe Hospital or Peking University Hospital. All have a wing for foreign patients, but the queue at Peking University Hospital may be very long. A lot of other hospitals provide cancer screenings. Try one close to your neighborhood. ■

THE BEIJING TODAY CROSSWORD



BY SU DERUI

Across

1. Egg cells
5. Bottom line

10. Multitude
14. Wind instrument
15. Surmise
16. At a distance
17. Smart-mouthed

18. Remorsefully
20. Low digit
21. Tomb Sweeping Day
22. Major mess
24. Farewell parties
28. Place for a ring
31. Untrustworthy sort
32. Clueless
36. Genetic material
37. Convenience for a driver
41. Chinese tea
42. Lockjaw
43. Trails
46. Wooden
50. Naysayers, of a kind
54. Hard up
55. Streetside favorite
58. Dash
59. Make difficult
62. Anatomical cavities
63. Highland hill
64. Aviator
65. Footnote word
66. Mended
67. Advances
68. Extinct bird

Down

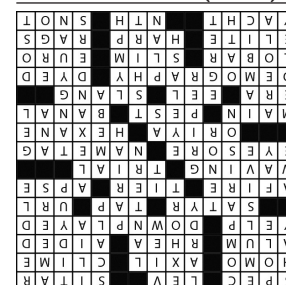
1. Challenge
2. Freud's home
3. Hoist into the air
4. Encountered
5. Sun hat
6. Door sign
7. Metallic sounds
8. Japanese cartoons
9. Admit
10. "Just a sec"
11. Frequently
12. Chemical salt
13. Judge
19. They justify the means
21. Cite
23. Blemish
25. Flowerless plant
26. Tooth
27. Reggae relative
29. One of the Simpsons
30. Otherwise
33. Going above and beyond (Abbr)
34. Neptune's realm
35. Broadcast
37. Dope
38. Solemn promise
39. Feeling regret
40. Vacation spot
41. Tax pro
44. Of a fiber plant
45. Rock formation
47. Shipworm
48. Developed
49. Go-getter
51. Flubs
52. Implied
53. Uninteresting
56. Perched on
57. Fishing gear
59. American TV network
60. Raw rock
61. Cavernous opening
62. Legendary Spanish hero

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Q CLASSIFIEDS

ART



Female Voice in Contemporary Chinese Art

Performance art has been an important vehicle for contemporary Chinese artists since the early 1980s.

Performance artists use their bodies as intermediaries, engaging in a dialogue between the individual and the collective and addressing their own value, gender and voice.

They make the conscious decision to stand at the periphery, creating work that is essentially unsellable but that responds authentically to contemporary society.

Join art historians and curators Madeline Eschenburg and Ellen Larson along with UCCA director Philip Tinari and artists Xiao Lu and Sun Shaokun as they discuss the significance of female performance in contemporary Chinese art. The event is in English and Chinese.

- ⌚ 12 pm - 1:30 pm, March 29
- 📍 The Bookworm, Courtyard 4, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang
- 💎 80 yuan
- ☎ (010) 6586 9507
- ✉ books@beijingbookworm.com
- 🌐 chinabookworm.com

MUSIC



Cesar Maldonado China Tour

Spanish singer and guitarist Cesar Maldonado is performing at La-Bas Bar to kick off his China tour. This is your chance to see him for free!

Maldonado was born in 1978 in Almeria and is an award-winning Spanish guitarist and singer-songwriter. He held his first professional concert at the age of 17, and since then has performed extensively in Spain, France and across Europe.

His accolades include the prize for best song at the International Singer-songwriter Festival "Abrilparavivir" in

Granada. A prolific composer, he wrote the songs "Regalame," "Dimelotu, Insomnio" and "Autodedicacion" for such singers as Hermi Callejon.

- ⌚ 9 - 11 pm, March 28
- 📍 La-Bas Bar, 34 Jiaodaokou Bei Santiao, Dongcheng
- ☎ 18500041765
- ✉ Chalffy@163.com

COMMUNITY



Meridian Workshop: Adel Andalibi's Creativity Gym

Do you believe only certain people are able to think outside the box? Think again!

Psychology and cognitive research have shown that contrary to many other individual traits, the ability to think creatively can be nurtured and developed in adults, and just like a muscle can be strengthened through proper training.

Feel like cultivating your creative or entrepreneurial potential? Join Adel Andalibi's Creativity Gym and learn to enhance your capacity for disruptive thinking!

These two-hour workshops are a combination of insightful games and creative activities by which you can develop the mindset, skills and tools of highly creative people in business, arts and science.

- ⌚ 3 - 5 pm, March 29
- 📍 Meridian Space, Building 8, C&C Park, 77 Meishuguan Hou Jie, Chaoyang
- 💎 180 yuan



Music & Movement Professional Development Workshop

Teachers, parents and movers, come join a fun-filled day of music and movement!

Music plays a powerful role in our lives. The natural combination of music and movement affects children's cognitive, social, emotional and physical skills in the everyday routines of the classroom and home.

Instructor Brittany Dunn will lead participants into her fun, interactive workshop that explores ways of integrating

music and movement in the early childhood classroom. Parents can easily recreate the classroom excitement at home.

In this workshop, participants will gain an understanding of how songs, playing a simple rhythm instrument and chanting rhythmic rhymes enhance children's imagination and creativity. IMTI delivers Bilingual Synchronous translations during this "hands-on" workshop.

- ⌚ 9 am - 5 pm, March 28
- 📍 International Montessori Teaching Institute, 688 Glory Palace, 2 Shunfu Lu, Renhe Town, Shunyi
- 💎 400 yuan, certificate provided
- ☎ (010) 8949 6877 or 18500617806
- ✉ enquiry@imti-china.com
- 🌐 imti-china.com

NIGHTLIFE



Jagermeister Presents Localized

Spirit label Jagermeister is presenting Localized, the sixth in an ongoing series of music events designed to connect leading figures from Beijing's underground music industry on March 27.

By providing a platform for collaboration between local musicians and DJs, Localized aims to support artists and venues that are part of China's growing underground music scene and to provide audiences with a showcase of the best homegrown talent.

Expect a dynamic musical spectrum from four of Beijing's cutting-edge female DJs. By understanding each artist's contribution to the local music scene, Jagermeister aims to connect the dots that make up Beijing's rich culture of underground dance music.

Born in Hong Kong and raised in Taipei, BB Deng has been active in China since 2007. After starting her musical career in the live rock scene, she made a name for herself as a DJ in top clubs and festivals both in China and abroad. BB Deng signed to Acupuncture Records in 2011, started the independent event label Disobedience Movement in 2013 and is currently producing her own tracks while maintaining a busy performance schedule.

One of the leading female DJs in Beijing's bass scene, ChoLe is part of the drum 'n' bass collective The Syndicate. She brings her innate sense of groove to every set she plays.

- ⌚ 10 pm - 4 am, March 27
- 📍 Dada, Unit 101, Bldg B, 206 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng
- 💎 30 yuan cover charge, includes a shot of Jagermeister
- ☎ 18311080818

DINING

Hui Cuisine at Made in China

Anhui cuisine is one of the Eight Culinary Traditions of China. Best known for its wild herbs and simple methods of preparation, Anhui cuisine makes use of a rich array of ingredients from the mountains and rivers. Dishes have a fresh taste that's also healthy.

Anhui cuisine consists of three styles: the Yangtze River region, the Huai River region and the southern Anhui region. Braising and stewing are common cooking techniques. Frying and stir-frying are used less frequently in Anhui cuisine than in other Chinese culinary traditions.

Hui cuisine is crisp, tender and fresh. The highlights include shredded water chestnuts with Anhui agaric, "Beng Bu" duck soup with preserved sour bamboo, braised lamb meat stuffing in fish with peppers and Maofeng tea pancakes with preserved meat.

Made in China's menu features classic Chinese favorites such as Peking duck cooked in a wood-fired oven, 'Beggars' chicken and pan-fried duck liver with plum chutney and sesame pancakes.

- ⌚ 11:30 am - 10:30 pm in April and May
- 📍 Made in China, 1F Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1 Dongchang'an Jie, Dongcheng
- ☎ (010) 8518 1234 ext 6024



Chef Diego's Spring Favorites

Da Giorgio, the boutique Italian restaurant of the Grand Hyatt Beijing, is offering authentic Italian dishes prepared by Italian chef Diego Papurello all through April.

Papurello was born in Torino, the capital of the Piedmont in Italy, a region known as the home of risotto. He will be presenting a classic risotto from his hometown: wild mushroom risotto with truffle essence and Asiago cheese.

Papurello says spring is a delightful time in Italy when temperatures rise and flowers bloom. Italian cuisine follows the Mediterranean culinary tradition, which focuses on simple, natural ingredients such as tomatoes, olive oil and green vegetables.

His menu will include tomato buffalo mozzarella salad with baby rocket and basil oil, seared tuna with citrus dressing, shaved baby fennel, watercress salad and salmon roe, as well as sea bass ravioli, ricotta cheese, shellfish jus and eggplant caponata.

- ⌚ 11:30 am - 10 pm in April (closed April 10)
- 📍 Da Giorgio, 2F Grand Hyatt Beijing Hotel, Oriental Plaza, 1 Dongchang'an Jie, Dongcheng
- ☎ (010) 6510 9024

NOODLES



Dandan noodles

Chinese Noodle Culture

BY DIAO DIAO

Noodles are a favorite food in Chinese cooking for their flavor as much as their symbolism: long noodles mean a long life.

We've previously covered many of Beijing's favorites, such as zhajiangmian, noodles with fried soybean paste, and xihongshijidan mian, noodles with tomato and egg syrup. But there are many other types of noodles that enjoy popularity across China.

In the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of the northwest, latiaozi are the noodles of choice. Shanxi people prefer their saozimian and liangpi. Sichuan is best known for its dandanmian and Yunnan for its rice noodles.

Latiaozi is a traditional food of the Uyghur people, but today it is available at most Muslim restaurants in big Chinese cities. The hand-pulled noodles are tossed with a thick beef or lamb stew and squares of cabbage, celery, mushrooms, garlic bolts, tomatoes, onions, green peppers and wood

ears. Good latiaozi should be chewy and a little sour.

Saozimian and liangpi were first created in Shanxi province. While liangpi has become available at almost every supermarket in the country, saozimian is a bit harder to track down and can only be found in northwestern style noodle shops. The dish is similar to Beijing's tomato and egg noodles but prepared with a slightly different technique. The key is to control the flame and time and to add the ingredients in the right order. Sliced meats, ginger, seasonings and pepper are essential in saozimian. It is usually served under a layer of red oil and seasoned with black vinegar.

Dandanmian is the traditional noodle of Sichuan Province. The dish is named for the pole-like shape of the noodles, called *bian-dan* in Chinese. With a taste that combines prickly ash, pepper oil and sour vinegar, dandanmian is one of the most delicious foods in Chinese cuisine. Preserved cabbage, bean



Liangpi



Saozimian



Latiaozi



Rice noodles

sprouts and red soy sauce can also be added to improve the flavor.

Yunnan rice noodles are another food that enjoys national popularity. According to popular legend, the first rice noodles were made by people in Guilin, Guizhou province to serve northern soldiers who were starting to feel homesick when confronted with boring bowls of rice.

There are other local noodles unique to different counties in China. Many can only be found at small home restaurants that serve simple and traditional food. ■

MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Learn to make Dandan Noodles

BY DIAO DIAO

Many restaurants serve dandanmian throughout the year, but it can be fun and rewarding to make your own. It also gives you the freedom to scale back the vinegar and pepper according to your own taste.

The Steps:

1. Bring the chicken stock to a low boil and add the prickly ash, huangjiu, green onions and ginger. Skim out any foam that floats to the surface. Turn off the fire.
2. Break up the spicy bean paste. Mince the garlic and green onion. Mince the bean sprouts and the pork.
3. Heat some oil in a pan. Add the pork and cook over a medium flame. Remove the pork when it changes color and becomes hard.
4. Add the minced garlic, green onion, spicy bean paste, bean sprouts and a little huangjiu. Cook for half a
5. minute. Remove and reserve.
5. Make the red syrup by combining the vinegar, light soy sauce, pepper oil, minced garlic and green onion. Proportions can be adjusted according to personal preference.
6. Boil some spinach in a pot of water.
7. Boil the noodles. Place an appropriate amount of red syrup in each bowl that will be used for serving. Ladle out the chicken stock into each bowl.
8. Place the boiled noodles directly into the bowls of stock. Garnish with the pork, bean sprouts and sesame seeds.



Photos by CFP & nipic.com

Ingredients:

- ☐ 400g flour noodles
- ☐ 100g pork
- ☐ 80g spinach
- ☐ 2 cloves garlic
- ☐ 1 tsp light soy sauce
- ☐ 30 grains prickly ash
- ☐ 1 green onion
- ☐ chicken
- ☐ stock
- ☐ salt
- ☐ vinegar
- ☐ spicy bean paste
- ☐ bean sprouts
- ☐ huangjiu
- ☐ pepper oil
- ☐ sesame seeds

Haozheikou Chongqing Xiaomian

BY DIAO DIAO

Chongqing xiaomian, a Sichuan style of noodles, has been getting popular in Beijing. There are many new restaurants serving Chongqing xiaomian, but Haozheikou Chongqing Xiaomian is the most traditional.

Opened by a Chongqing native, the restaurant serves other noodle favorites of the southwest such as ganzamian and wanzamian. Its spicy cold dishes are popular with both the regular clientele and people who are just passing through.

Haozheikou's Chongqing xiaomian is made using a complex broth that demands quality noodles. The noodles in red oil are the most popular because their spicy taste is almost identical to what diners enjoy in Chongqing.

Ganzamian is less spicy than Chongqing xiaomian. The noodles are dry and covered with a thick red syrup. The authentic taste is ensured with a secret blend of Sichuan peppers and fiery pepper oil.

As well as different kinds of Chongqing noodles, Haozheikou also has many cold dishes for patrons who can't handle the heat.

Spicy lotus is a special dish in the restaurants. While many others serve sweet roots drowned in osmanthus syrup, Haozheikou serves its lotus spicy and salty. Its green bean and pumpkin soup is also popular and a great way to quench the heat after a big bowl of spicy noodles.

As well as offering tasty food, the restaurant's price is quite affordable. A bowl of noodles costs 15 yuan on average and cold dishes about 8 yuan. ■



Chongqing xiaomian



Spicy lotus

Photos by dianping.com

Haozheikou Chongqing xiaomian

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